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The Genoa Conference

What is to be done at the Genoa conference, whose agenda President Harding and Secretary Hughes are carefully studying and the invitation to attend which is not likely to be accepted until the results of the Washington conferences are harvested? Italy's formal message sketches in six paragraphs the business to be brought up at the Genoa conference. But the six are reducible to two, or at most to three. First, recognition of the capitalist practice of debt paying; second, stabilization of domestic and international exchange; third, discontinuance of propaganda against the internal peace of the various countries.

The first paragraph of the formal invitation expresses the truism that each nation may have the form and character of government that seems good to it, and then modifies this in the second and third paragraphs by declaring that no nation can assist another with its capital unless the assisted gives acceptable assurance that the rights and property of foreign investors shall be respected. So Russia is asked to make fundamental changes in her policy. She must renege allegiance to the capitalistic system so far as concerns outsiders. The fourth paragraph, which is to be regarded as the most immediately important of the series, is as follows:

"4. An adequate means of exchange must be available, and generally there must be co-financial and currency conditions which offer sufficient security for trade."

The language is rather vague, but implies that by some system of cancellation, or of refunding or of reserve, sellers can be given knowledge of what they are getting for their goods. As things now are in many countries trading is reduced to barter or to gambling. Under such conditions commerce is practically impossible. Money, which in addition to being a medium of exchange is a standard or measurer of other values, was not invented without reason. Goods are prevailingly sold for money and the money is then sold for goods, two transactions, achieving barter. This is performed a function analogous to that of a cold storage plant—wealth is preserved in a convenient form until there is demand for its actual use. Business perishes when denied this service.

But back of all is the fact that, however much statesmen may confer, actual investment is an individual matter. The possessor of capital judges for himself when a risk is worth taking or a sale worth making. Confidence is the life of trade, and no conference can summon it into existence. The only way for Russia, for example, to get it to deserve it, for all talk of a blockade against her is sheer nonsense.

German War Criminals

Last August the Allied Supreme Council appointed a commission to investigate the farcical trials of German war criminals. The proceedings at Leipzig had made a mockery of Article 228 of the Versailles treaty. The Allied governments had weakly consented to let Germany judge her own criminals. She judged them in a truly German way.

The commission reported the other day that except in two instances the Leipzig trials were botched. The court didn't try to discover the truth. Defendants were acquitted when they ought to have been found guilty. Light sentences were given when heavy sentences should have been imposed.

The Leipzig court, it will be remembered, developed the convenient theory that officers who were executing orders could not be punished for doing so. Their superiors were held to be responsible. Yet each superior was left free to pass the responsibility one stage higher up. So responsibility was lodged at last with the ex-Kaiser, who was out of the court's jurisdiction and who has held in his recent letter to Field Marshal von Hindenburg that he cannot waive his divine right to the extent of appearing before any earthly judge.

The commission has recommended that the Leipzig experiment be

dropped and Article 228 enforced. Under it Germany is bound to hand over all persons accused of having violated the rules and customs of war for trial by Allied tribunals. Germany doesn't want to have her foul fighters condemned because verdicts against them would be verdicts against her. But the countries which look to international law as a bulwark against savagery want to see the German criminals tried, barbarity punished and the rules of civilized warfare vindicated.

Hyman's Choice

The Transit Commission would like to take up the work of subway extension with Mr. Hyman's cooperation. It recognizes him as the executive head of the city. It has repeatedly indicated its desire to work in harmony with him.

If, however, Mr. Hyman refuses his co-operation and continues in his rôle of obstructionist the work will have to be done without him. The highest court of the state has upheld the validity of the law that created the commission. The commission's authority to discharge the duties committed to it can no longer be doubted. The result of its labors will be of enormous benefit to the city. It will plan and provide for the building of the greatest urban railway in the world. Mr. Hyman, always hungry for credit, can, if he chooses, go down in history as a man who played an important part in this gigantic work.

Far better for him that he take part in the solution of the transit tangle than become known as the Mayor who vainly tried to tangle it. Can't he in this matter disregard the advice of Mr. Hearst, who from motives of vanity or imagined self-interest does not want anything done?

No Class Privileges

If any act of Congress of recent years has been vindicated by events it is the one which created the Federal Reserve system. If any governmental agency has shown wisdom and strength in the execution of a great trust it is the Federal Reserve Board.

Except for the law and the judgment with which it has been applied, those now complaining of the depression would have greater reason to complain. We have escaped panic conditions. Liquidation, though severe, has been orderly. This is a great gain—a victory for intelligence in whose benefits all share. If we have escaped the plight of Europe it is largely because of the Federal Reserve system.

So those who worked for a generation to establish in this country a discount and currency institution to lessen business shocks, and thus to keep confidence alive, view with suspicion changes in the law. So they are impatient of proposals to have men on the Reserve Board with obligations running to special groups rather than to all of us. Why Senators of courage voted against the bill to add a sixth member to the Reserve Board, with the unexpressed understanding that the new member should be a spokesman for one interest, is thus no mystery.

But, happily, the bill was amended so as not to be mandatory, and does not specify the exact type of farmer or planter who is to be selected. Among the millions identified with the agricultural interests are many men equipped with a banking experience qualifying them to serve on the board. If their allegiance runs to all, if they repudiate the doctrine that they are delegates to fight for special interests and are concerned only in a secondary way in the general welfare, then there is no cause for alarm. Much, if not all, depends on the personal character of the President's nominee.

Nevertheless, though the President is able to disregard sinister suggestions whispered to him, the debate which has occurred in the Senate has a bad flavor. The Republic is based on a citizenship of men and women as they are men and women, not as they are farmers, or shopkeepers, or workmen, or actresses, or laundresses, or any other vocational distinction. Step by step we have removed special privileges from our laws. To take the back track is to tend toward sovietism, and is in the direction of bringing in destructive chaos rather than of promoting an order wholesomely cooperative. Possession of common citizenship and of personal fitness—these are the only proper recommendations for membership on such a body as the Federal Reserve Board.

Threatening

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, brandishes the strike weapon two months in advance of the expiration of the present contract. He thus gives to the operators and the public ample time to consider and to himself ample time to reconsider.

One thing is certain—coal must be mined. Mr. Lewis says let the industrial conflict come. Unwise words. The public has a voice, not very articulate, but able to make itself heard, and the public is a fair umpire. It is in no mood to countenance oppressive action by the operators or a hold-up by the miners.

The costs of production in the coal industry are facts that can be

ascertained. As to the future, the operators assert that there must be wage adjustments before prices can be much lowered. The miners do not seem seriously to dispute this. So the issue is between coal consumers and the miners. It is not helpful for the spokesman of the miners to open the discussion by saying that he must have his exact way or he will close the mines and let the nation freeze.

Sympathy is naturally on the side of the digger. No person with a heart would deny him generous compensation. He must receive every cent of pay his hard labor earns; but, like others, he is obliged to accept the consequences of economic changes which affect all. The miners may have a good case. Mr. Lewis only injures it by war threats.

The Governor's Work

"We believe in the statesmanship, vision and courage of Governor Miller. We believe in the honesty, integrity and wisdom of his purposes. We have been fortunate in having a state executive with the tenacity of purpose and the courage in action to work steadily toward the completion of his program in the face of the selfish attacks of his Democratic foes and the petty short-sighted criticisms of others."—From the report of Robert C. Morris, chairman of the committee on state affairs of the National Republican Club.

The conclusions that Mr. Morris's committee has reached regarding Governor Miller are amply justified by his record. He has, from the first day of his term, labored to give the state an efficient and economical administration, and he has been absolutely regardless of political consequences in carrying out his program. Many Governors have been equally earnest in their desire to serve the people of the state. Few, very few, have been able to accomplish so much.

If the Governor had done nothing but give the City of New York the Port Authority and the Transit Commission his achievements would have justified his election. To many his transit policy is bitter medicine, not ideal in theory; but the disease was so desperate that a drastic remedy was required. The city's millions must have means whereby to travel. The city's administration, by four years of ineptness, had shown it lacked the capacity or the will to do anything practical. Grim necessity thus forced the state to intervene, and the Governor did not shrink.

Last year his consolidation of departments and speeding up of their work reduced budgetary demands of \$210,000,000 to an appropriation total of \$135,000,000. He has undertaken to bring the cost of the state government in 1922 \$10,000,000 below that of last year. No one who knows him will doubt his ability to do it. He has proceeded in his every undertaking in a calm, businesslike fashion. His long service on the bench brought him an understanding of the needs of the state. His natural gifts as a leader made him a powerful influence in the Legislature. His is a combination of great knowledge and unflagging industry which is seldom found in public office. Before his crystal clear sincerity even the voice of partisanship is silent.

French Army Cost

The horrid truth has been unmasked! In reply to Senator McCormick's request that the State Department furnish the Senate with information about the costs of the military establishments of Europe Stéphane Lauzanne, editor of "Le Matin," points out that for the coming year the expenses of France for her military establishment are to be only a little more than half the expenses of the United States for her army during the same period. Although the per capita figure is naturally higher for France, owing to the difference in the population of the two countries, the military expenditures form, according to Mr. Lauzanne, only one-eleventh of France's budget.

The Senator's resolution came at such a time and in such a manner as to add a trifle to international complications. It is difficult for France to realize that a Senate resolution requesting information is not the same as an Administration policy. The ways of the Senate continue to be a mystery to Frenchmen.

The chances are, however, that the information which the Senator from Illinois desires as to other countries will be as disappointing to those who see conspiracies throughout the world as is the information relating to France. "Do you think," M. Briand asked an American newspaper man in Washington, "that France keeps a big army for fun? Do you think she keeps thousands of men from productive work because she likes to?"

Polly to the Rescue

Mr. Polly, currently referred to as a "relentless intellectual gimlet," seems discouraged. The world, it appears, despite all his efforts to set it right, is still out of joint. America in particular is in a bad way.

Shortly after his arrival in this country he pictured in his sanguine way Manhattan Island in ruins and as uninhabited as a deserted village. Soon thereafter, when the country failed to take his advice, he saw

all America rapidly reverting to barbarism and Europe collapsed, with weeds growing in the empty streets of her capitals. One beheld the last of the Europeans jealously guarding a copy of "The Outline," so that the history of the world might be preserved for the new era.

Now, again back in the desolate ruin that once was Europe, he announces sentimentally that America is living up to only 25 per cent of her opportunities (whatever that may mean). America, it appears, isn't on the job. Instead of seeking disarmament she merely grumbles in a feeble way about European divisions and growls about European debts.

What America should do, says the intellectual gimlet, is to "insist on dealing with Europe, not nation by nation, but with a European league which will include Germany and Russia. Insist that Europe behave as a whole, and Europe will have to behave as a whole."

To deal with Europe as a whole would be a very satisfactory and delectable occupation. The trouble seems to be, however, that Europe is in the same condition as Humpty Dumpty after his fall. And not even all of Wells's writings and all his prescriptions promise to put Europe together again. Indeed, until the Polls cease from out-lining and the half thinkers are at rest the disturbed lands are not likely to behave.

The Farmer's Plight

He Has Nothing to Show for Twelve Months of Toil

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Even those who are most violently opposed to the existence either in principle or practice of a farm or any other bloc in Congress must, if honest with themselves, admit that the farmer is entitled to some relief. Possibly a great many members of metropolitan labor unions do not know that the farmer has been completely "liquidated." They do not know that many a farmer has worked harder and longer—with no double pay for overtime—during the last year than they ever will work if they retain their sober senses and their power, and that for this work the farmer has received absolutely nothing. He has not even the price of a suspender button to show for twelve months of toil. This applies not to all but to many farmers.

In addition to this, the real, honest-to-goodness farmer who a couple of years ago bought land at existing prices, with every intention of paying for it out of the earnings of the farm, now finds himself, with his original payment wiped out through decrease in land values, virtually a pauper. Let it be admitted that half the farmers of the Middle West became speculators in land rather than "dirt farmers." Let it be admitted that those speculators deserved to be "rotted." Were there not speculators in every line of industry, and in a good many lines which were not industry? The fact remains that the farmer is now paying. Obviously, the mere fact that a man is a farmer does not fit him for a place on the Federal Reserve Board. More than likely there is no "dirt farmer" fitted for such a post, if he were he certainly wouldn't be a farmer, not that there is anything lacking in dignity in farming, but that a man with the banking urge which would fit him for Reserve Board work would follow his bent. Still, the general advice of a representative of real working interests on the board may give a new plant to some of its deliberations, and he certainly can't dominate its activities.

A. M. ADAMS.
Plainfield, N. J., Jan. 17, 1922.

The Rights of Minorities

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In a letter to The Tribune Ralph M. Easley proposes the interesting plan of persecuting political minorities, such as pacifists, Socialists, etc.

One could scarcely refrain from a smile at this evidence of progress, so far beyond the unformed governmental notions of Jefferson, Hamilton, the Adamses and Washington, until one was informed that Mr. Easley is a prominent "Americanizer" worker.

Here, indeed, is an uproariously funny thing. Can nothing be done to Americanize "Americanizers"? Cannot some kindly disposed citizen place in their hands one copy each of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States? Some of us Americans are becoming a trifle weary of their misrepresentations.

CHARLES D. KING.
New York, Jan. 17, 1922.

In Honor of Ericsson

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I was very much pleased to see the article in your Sunday magazine section of the 8th inst. on Captain John Ericsson and his work at the Phoenix Foundry and the Delamater Iron Works, and your mention of the fact that our committee has in hand the erection and unveiling of four tablets on the sites of buildings in the Greenwich Village section of New York and the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, and will hold a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel—all on March 9, the sixtieth anniversary of the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack.

The Delamater-Ericsson Tablet Committee, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York, will be glad to answer inquiries from your readers who may be interested to know more about our movement.

H. F. J. PORTER.
New York, Jan. 17, 1922.

Unbeatable

(From The Kansas City Star)
It looks as though Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Dempsey never would succeed in getting anybody to stay in a ring with them.

The Tower

WARNING

Days are dismal, dark and chill.
Folk complain of feeling ill.
Nights are far, oh, far from torrid.
Folk not feeling ill feel horrid.
Now arrives the gala term
For the germette and the germ;
Mother microbes and her pup,
All of them are waking up.
Through your mouth they're inward bound,
People, coughing, spray them round;
Down your gullet, dim and dank,
They are marching, rank on rank.
In your trachea they're lurking,
On each nasal passage working.
Hail the gargle and the spray!
These may keep their hosts at bay.
For their advent there is reason—
This is the bacilli season.

On the early winter breeze
Rides the microbe of the sneeze;
Crawling unforeseen to sock us
Comes the wily pneumococcus.
Bent on swift and certain killing,
Grippe is gripping; chills are chilling.
"Ware, you boastful cold-plunge tubbers!
"Ware, you careless! Wear your rubbers!
Bold bacteria and rude
You encounter in your food,
In the bed and on the floor,
Creeping underneath the door.
Bugs are in the drinking water
And the flu germ's bride has sought her
Nice new home to rear her young
On your tonsils or your tongue.
Cough on, victims! Cough and wheeze on!
This is the bacilli season.

The cool miners may strike next spring, and so indifferent are we to the threats of unionism that we dare the women to walk out to-morrow.

"Ain't it about time," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus, of Peabackness, N. J., "for Mayor Hyman to ask the Legislature to declare a permanent closed season on cops?"

The Court of Appeals can't convince His Honor that the Transit Act is constitutional, and we're beginning to understand why the Police Commissioner remains in office.

Oh, Wind, if Foxes Come

The Fontaine Foxes have gone to the Big Town for the winter, but the celebrated member of the family comes to Port twice a week for local color.

The Fontaine Foxes have returned to Port Washington after spending a short time in Manhattan.—Port Washington News.

The special sales of men's clothing advertisements remind us that our last summer's suit won't last much longer, but the thought of going through next July and August in winter-weight garments stays our purchasing hand.

From Fourteenth to Times Square
"An" he says "Ditch 'im. If ye're runnin' aroun' with me ye can't go with no other boob."

"Well, vhasamatter with that?"

"With what?"

"That. He tol' ye ye can go with another guy, didn't he?"

"Aw, say, stupid. Lissen, he says I can't go with no other guy—can't—can't with one o' them jiggers after the 't."

"Oh, ye can't go. I understand now. Gotta nerve, ain't he?"

"Yeh. I says, 'Where d'ye get off tellin' me that—mizgawd, we ain't married yet that I know of—I says—'ye ain't ast me yet, neither.' 'All right,' he says, 'all right,' he says. 'When I ast ye ye'll know it,' an' I says 'Huh, Frank ast me already, an' whaddya know about that?'"

"Frank ast ye?"

"Yeh."

"Mizgawd. What'd Harry say?"

"Aw, they's too many arn't now—lissen—the ol' man heard 'im an' give 'im the air, an' I ain't seen 'im since. Yougha heard 'im. Gee!"

"Jatell Frank?"

"Yeh. He juss laffed. He c'n lick that guy easy."

"Who?"

"Harry. Who'd ye think I mean, the ol' man?"

W. F. B.

If the new Newspaper Club doesn't bar the man who "used to be a reporter myself," one membership committee won't be anywhere near enough.

And speaking of clubs and such, Bill Netch hazards that the Clef Club's new building will avoid sharp corners in its architecture.

"A rest room will be in order," continues the life of the party. "Maybe they will have a bar where the members can get a drink for a half note."

TO THE CAST OF BULLDOG DRUMMOND

Portrayers of a mellerdrummer,
Where click of lock and pistol hammer
Are respite brief from wilder clamor,
Say, did you hope this hard to scare
By croakings in the villain's lair;
By croakings triune who hiss and glare?

With most of my emotion hid,
To you I, quaking, doff my lid.
I thought you couldn't, but—you did.

If one is to believe the headwriters, "leaps to death" are plentiful enough on the subway, but we wondered morbidly and interminably between Ninety-sixth and Seventy-second yesterday morning why some one didn't starve to death there.

"IN THIS CORNER"

Harry London, the Harlem band-leader, who was married last Saturday night, has been forced to cancel his bout with Battling Leonard, of Philadelphia, which was to take place at Madison Square Garden on Friday night, owing to a cut over his left eye. London will leave for Lakeview, N. J., to-day, where he will rest up for three weeks.—The Sun.

This is not written to carol your praise,
You who the windows persistently raise,
So that my office's atmosphere frigid
Keeps all my faculties frozen and rigid.
Prythee observe, oh, indefinite one,
Signs of the damage to thee you have done.

F. F. V.

IF WE CAN ONLY GET THE WASHING HOME

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Books By Percy Hammond

More Truth Than Poetry
By James J. Montague

Stop Thief!

They've taught the earnest pupil sleuth
To glean important hints
About the way the crook leaves tooth
As well as finger prints.
They've learned in scientific books
To follow shadowy clues,
And trap the most enlightened crooks
By many a clever ruse.
They catch the rascals every time—
That has to be admitted—
If they are present when the crime
Is actually committed.

The modern central office men
Have been so highly trained
That you discern one now and then
Who's really over-brained.
From little things, acute and shrewd
Conclusions they will draw,
Which Sherlock Holmeses might
Well have viewed.

With signs of envious awe
For criminals they set a snare
Adroit and sly and deft,
And catch them, if so be they're there
When crooks commit the theft.

Thus science triumphs over vice,
The methods never fail.
A burglar will not burgle twice
If he is safe in jail.
Detectives work with art and craft,
Their skill well serves their need;
In every case of crime and graft
They cleverly proceed.

Ill fare the wicked gentlemen
Who wield a club or gun
If but the sleuth is present when
The job is being done.

Love Will Find a Way
They say the new dollars cannot
be piled up, but we don't think that
is going to worry Mr. Rockefeller.

Plenty of the Other Kind
What most city governments need
is a little unevil service reform.

Safety First
Now that the drives for endowments
have been put over, college
professors have begun criticizing
the newspapers again.
(Copyright by James J. Montague)

"Jail Them and Keep Them"
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The way to stop crime is to
catch the criminals and jail them and
keep them there. Get them as soon
as possible, try them quickly, sentence
them severely. Don't let a clever lawyer
wrangle them out, don't pardon them
or suspend sentence or put them on
probation. I believe in being lenient
with first offenders, but with them
only.

I am all for the modern jail, but I
am against the sentimentalists who do
not want to clap a man into jail and do
want to get him out when in. The
average jury so hates to do its duty
that it will not do it unless forced to
by the facts. Then the case is ap-
pealed and respanded, and if you finally
do get a sentence it is one with
five years off if the man behaves in
jail. Then he gets out on probation, or
is pardoned.

I can feel for the man who errs once,
but the very next time I say "speak
him." I have no sympathy for the
habitual criminal. Jail him and keep
him there, but that does not mean to
make his life a hell.

J. B.
Roslyn, N. Y., Jan. 17, 1922.

Planet Venus and the Bible
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I read your editorial on the
latest spectroscopic reports relative to
the presence of oxygen on the planet
Venus. The scientists are frequently
mistaken and only the passage of a
few years is needed to give them a
new point of view.

The spectroscopic requires light
from a burning gas in order to detect
the presence of an element, but as the
clouds of Venus are not burning, but
merely reflect the sun's rays, your
scientist is really speculating about
sunlight, and his conclusions are use-
less.

If you will read some real science
turn to the Bible and in the second
chapter of Revelation you will find
that the angel promised the morning
star to him who should overcome.
Isaiah sings of Beulah Land in his
sixty-second chapter. There "thy sun
shall no more go down," because on
Venus the year and the day are iden-
tical, and one side of the planet always
faces the sun. "The sun shall be no
more thy light by day," because on
Venus there is a cloudy photosphere
which shields the planet and transmits
the milky light of bright clouds to the
flourishing fields and forests of our
sister earth.

ROBERT J. MACLAUGHLIN.
Brooklyn, Jan. 18, 1922.